

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03760 021440Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 ACDA-07

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SSM-03 /075 W

-----044715 021444Z /53

O R 021356Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4771

AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T BEIRUT 3760

USCINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINT, LE, US

SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON - DEPLOYMENT OF LEBANESE TROOPS

1. IN SPITE OF HIS VERY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE ON QUESTION IN RECENT PAST, ARMY COMMANDER GEN. KHOURY, HAS NOW INFORMED DATT HE TAKING PREPARATORY STEPS TO PLAN FOR COMMITMENT OF LEBANESE TROOPS TO SOUTH LEBANON. HE ESTIMATES THAT BETWEEN TWO MINI-BATTALIONS OF MOSLEMS TOTALING 500-700 MEN FROM VANGUARD FORCE IN BEKAA, AND SIMILAR NUMBER FROM CHRISTIAN CAMP AT SARBA, NORTH OF BEIRUT, HE WILL BE ABLE FIELD ROUGHLY 1200-1500 MEN FOR PURPOSE. HE PLANNING STATION MOSLEMS ALONG SOUTHERN BORDER AND CHRISTIANS AT MARJAYUN. IMPLEMENTATION OF PLAN, ONCE ORDER GIVEN BY PRESIDENT, WILL TAKE TWO MONTHS. DATT BELIEVES THAT PERIOD IS REALISTIC.

2. ALTHOUGH THIS OPERATION IS STILL IN PLANNING STAGE AND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03760 021440Z

AWAITS FINAL DECISION BY GOL, THIS IS POTENTIALLY VERY FAVORABLE DEVELOPMENT, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MUCH PREFERABLE, FOR NUMBER OF PRACTICAL REASONS, TO HAVE LEBANESE FORCES RATHER THAN UN TROOPS ALONG BORDER. IT WOULD ALSO GIVE USEFUL LIFE TO LOCAL SPIRITS AND IMPETUS TO RESTRUCTURING OF ARMY. THERE ARE PROBLEMS, HOWEVER. FIRSTLY, 1200-1500 MEN WOULD BE TOKEN FORCE, ALMOST SAME STRENGTH AS

CHRISTIAN FORCES AND ONE-THIRD SIZE OF PALESTINIAN FORCES NOW IN BORDER AREAS. THEIR ABILITY TO DO ANY FIGHTING VERY LIMITED. IF SERIOUS TROUBLE BROKE OUT THEY WOULD BE UNABLE COPE.

3. SECONDLY, TWO MONTHS DELAY IN STATIONING OF TROOPS GIVES TOO MUCH SCOPE TO TROUBLE MAKES AND FATE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER PALESTINIAN WITHDRAWAL AGREEMENT WILL HOLD THAT LONG IN ABSENCE SOME FORCE TO BE INTERPOSED. ON OTHER HAND SUCH FORCE WOULD PERHAPS BE IN PLACE BEFORE UN TROOPS, AND ON BALANCE, WE BELIEVE WE SHOULD ENCOURAGE KHOURY TO PROCEED AS PLANNED.

4. IN ANY EVENT, KHOURY'S APPARENT READINESS MOVE ON THIS ISSUE IS VERY RELEVANT TO SECRETARY'S DISCUSSIONS WITH PRESIDENT SARKIS. SINCE WE HAVE ABOVE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM GEN. KHOURY AND HIS G-2, AND NOT FROM FONMIN BOUTROS OR SARKIS, SECRETARY SHOULD BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT INDICATING HE KNOWS DETAILS. BELIEVE IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM TO ASK, HOWEVER, IN CASE SARKIS DOES NOT REFER TO ABOVE, WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE STATION LEBANESE TROOPS IN SOUTH, SAYING WE UNDERSTAND GEN. KHOURY HAS HAD SOME NEW THOUGHTS ON SUBJECT.
PARKER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t197708108/aaaadnte.tel
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Litigation History:
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